

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

SPECIAL ORDER NO. 20

September 19, 2011

SUBJECT: BLUE ALERT SYSTEM - ESTABLISHED

EFFECTIVE: IMMEDIATELY

PURPOSE: The Blue Alert System was enacted into California law with the passage of Senate Bill 839, which adds Section 8594.5 to the California Government Code (GC). Similar to that of an Amber Alert, the goal of a Blue Alert is to provide immediate information to the public via media broadcasts and other notification resources. A Blue Alert is intended to solicit help from the public in the safe and swift apprehension of violent suspects that have killed or seriously injured law enforcement officers and who continue to pose a threat to public safety. The California Highway Patrol (CHP) administers the Blue Alert system and is responsible for issuing Blue Alerts. This Order establishes the procedures and guidelines for initiating a Blue Alert.

PROCEDURE: The Department, in conjunction with the CHP, has developed the following procedures for the activation of a Blue Alert in accordance with Section 8594.5 of the California GC.

I. BLUE ALERT SYSTEM - ESTABLISHED. Department Manual Section 4/760.20, *Blue Alert System*, has been established. The following sections are guidelines for the initiation of the Blue Alert System.

II. ROBBERY-HOMICIDE DIVISION'S RESPONSIBILITIES. Robbery-Homicide Division (RHD) shall be responsible for notifying Real-Time Analysis and Critical Response (RACR) Division if a Blue Alert is needed. The Blue Alert shall be requested by RACR Division through the CHP if all of the following conditions are met:

- * A law enforcement officer has been killed, has suffered serious bodily injury, or is assaulted with a deadly weapon, and the suspect has fled the scene of the offense;
- * A law enforcement agency investigating the offense has determined that the suspect poses an imminent threat to the public or other law enforcement personnel;
- * A detailed description of the suspect's vehicle or license plate is available for broadcast; and,

- * Public dissemination of available information may help avert further harm or accelerate the apprehension of the suspect.

Note: Nothing in this Order shall compel RHD to release any information they deem not suitable for release to the public.

As soon as there is sufficient information for a Blue Alert, the assigned RHD investigator shall immediately contact RACR Division.

Once RACR Division receives a Blue Alert approval from the CHP, the assigned RHD investigator should contact Media Relations Section personnel, who shall prepare a press release based on the information articulated on the Blue Alert and disseminate the release to the appropriate news wire services and media outlets.

Note: The assigned RHD investigator shall be responsible for contacting RACR Division to cancel the CHP's Blue Alert and Communications Division broadcasts.

III. REAL-TIME ANALYSIS AND CRITICAL RESPONSE DIVISION'S RESPONSIBILITIES. Real-Time Analysis and Critical Response Division shall contact the CHP's Emergency Notification and Tactical Alert Center to initiate the Blue Alert. Once the Blue Alert is approved by the CHP, RACR Division shall contact Communications Division and request that a Blue Alert be broadcasted every hour. Real-Time Analysis and Critical Response Division shall contact the assigned RHD investigator to indicate that the CHP approved the Blue Alert, so that the assigned RHD investigator can contact the Media Relations Section.

Real-Time Analysis and Critical Response Division shall contact the CHP to cancel the Blue Alert and contact Communications Division to cancel the broadcasts upon notification from the assigned RHD investigator.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION'S RESPONSIBILITIES. The Watch Commander, Communications Division, shall ensure that the hourly Blue Alert broadcasts are made, until they are canceled.

AMENDMENT: This Order adds Section 4/760.20 to the Department Manual.

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MONITORING RESPONSIBILITY: The Commanding Officer, Real-Time Analysis and Critical Response Division, shall have monitoring responsibility for this directive.

AUDIT RESPONSIBILITY: The Commanding Officer, Internal Audits and Inspections Division, shall review this directive and determine whether an audit or inspection shall be conducted in accordance with Department Manual Section 0/080.30.



CHARLIE BECK
Chief of Police

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